

REQUIREMENTS FOR EXAMINATION AND LICENSURE AND OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION

TENNESSEE STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR LAND SURVEYORS

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

REQUIREMENTS:

Effective July 1, 2003, the applicant must satisfy the requirements in one of the following categories in order to be eligible for licensure as a professional land surveyor in the state of Tennessee:

CATEGORY A

1. Obtain a four-year baccalaureate degree in land surveying.
2. Pass an eight-hour written exam, Fundamentals of Land Surveying (FS) selected by the Board.
3. Submit evidence that you have obtained two years progressive experience on surveying projects working under the supervision of a licensed surveyor.
4. Pass both written exams: the six hour Principles and Practices of Land Surveying (PS) and the two hour Tennessee State Jurisdictional exam (TS), selected by the Board.

CATEGORY B

1. Obtain a baccalaureate degree in a science, engineering, or technology curriculum of four or more years related to the practice of land surveying, approved by the Board.
2. Submit transcripts showing 24 additional semester hours of board approved course work in the surveying sciences.
3. Pass an eight-hour written exam, Fundamentals of Land Surveying (FS), selected by the Board.
4. Submit evidence that you have obtained two years of progressive experience on surveying projects working under the supervision of a licensed surveyor.
5. Pass both written exams: the six hour Principles and Practices of Land Surveying (PS) and the two hour Tennessee State Jurisdictional exam (TS), selected by the Board.

CATEGORY C

1. Obtain a baccalaureate degree from a non-surveying related curriculum of four or more years, approved by the Board.
2. Submit transcripts showing 36 additional semester hours of board approved course work in the surveying sciences.
3. Pass an eight-hour written exam, Fundamentals of Land Surveying (FS), selected by the Board.
4. Submit evidence that you have obtained two years of progressive experience on surveying projects working under the supervision of a licensed surveyor.
5. Pass both written exams: the six hour Principles and Practices of Land Surveying (PS) and the two hour Tennessee State Jurisdictional exam (TS), selected by the Board.

NON-BACCALAUREATE OPTION

Any person submitting evidence satisfactory to the Board that they have worked as a licensed land surveyor, or under a licensed land surveyor for at least 10 years, will be exempt from the educational requirements of Category A, B and C, but will be required to include a copy of their high school diploma or GED with their application.

AT THE PRESENT TIME, EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY IS THE ONLY SCHOOL IN TENNESSEE THAT OFFERS THE FOUR YEAR SURVEYING DEGREE PROGRAM.

Out-of-state colleges offering a four year degree in surveying are acceptable.

APPLICATIONS:

The applicant must submit a NON-REFUNDABLE application fee of \$200.00 with their application. If the application is approved, the Board determines whether the applicant will be required to take a 2-hour, 6-hour, 8-hour or a 16-hour written examination. EVERY APPLICANT IS REQUIRED TO TAKE A WRITTEN EXAMINATION.

Applications are reviewed in March for the April exam and in September for the October exam.

OCTOBER Exam - Deadline to have applications (new AND retakes) in to the board office: July 15. ABSOLUTELY NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE.

APRIL Exam - Deadline to have applications (new AND retakes) in to the board office: January 15. ABSOLUTELY NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE.

Applicants who fail the examination two or more times must complete a re-take request form. The request form will have to be approved by the Board before you will be allowed to take the exam again {TCA 62-18-111(b)}.

Tennessee Surveying Exam registration

How do I register?

You must first apply to the [Tennessee board](#) for approval to sit for the exam. Visit [the board's website](#) for the appropriate forms, instructions, and fee information. After the board has notified you of your approval, register online with NCEES to reserve your seat for the exam. You will not be required to pay additional exam fees when registering through the NCEES website.

Exam authorization

NCEES will e-mail you 2-3 weeks before the exam with a link to download and print your exam authorization notice. Read it carefully. You will be required to present this document along with a valid, government-issued photo ID upon arrival at the exam site.

Results

NCEES will email you your results of the FS and PS portions 8–10 weeks after the exam date. The board will notify you of your TS exam results by email at the same time.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2005 ANY INDIVIDUAL SUBMITTING AN APPLICATION FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE TENNESSEE BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR LAND SURVEYORS FOR LICENSURE, IF AFTER TWO YEARS FROM THE ORIGINAL DATE OF THE APPLICATION THE INDIVIDUAL HAS NOT PASSED THE REQUIRED TESTING, MUST WAIT ONE YEAR BEFORE SUBMITTING ANOTHER NEW AND COMPLETE APPLICATION AND APPLICATION FEE.

PROCEDURE TO MEET WITH THE BOARD:

Any applicant wishing to meet with the Board must send a letter requesting the meeting and an appointment will be scheduled for you. Meetings with the applicants are usually held at the April and October meeting, which are held at the same time the exams are given. Applicants who failed the exam and request to meet with the Board cannot meet with the Board and re-take the exam at the same time, but must wait until the next exam is offered.

APPLICANTS APPROVED TO TAKE THE EXAMINATION:

The exam fees are as follows:

Fundamentals of Land Surveying (FS) - \$125.00
Principles and Practices of Land Surveying (PS) - \$150.00
Tennessee Specifics of Land Surveying (TS) - \$150.00

Applicants will be notified of their approval and the required examination fee. The applicant is notified in a timely manner regarding the date, time and location of the exam, which portions of the exam are open book, which portions are closed book and the materials allowed at the exam site. Any questions regarding the use of calculators must be directed to the proctor at the exam site or you may contact Peter Messer @ 800-447-4091 ext. 402.

Examination dates are released by NCEES and Tennessee adheres to these dates.

EXAMINATIONS:

Examinations are given in April and October.

We give a one day national exam {6-hour NCEES (PS)} and a Tennessee specific exam {2-hour (TS)} on Friday. The Tennessee specific exam (TS) consists of legal and specific terms related to general surveying in the state of Tennessee.

On Saturday, we give a one day national exam {8-hour NCEES (FS)}.

If the applicant fails any portion of the NCEES FS, NCEES PS, or the Tennessee specific (TS), he/she must take that portion of the exam over.

STUDY MATERIAL FOR THE EXAMINATIONS:

NCEES: For specific information about the examination and for a study guide, contact: National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES), Publications Department, P.O. Box 1686, Clemson, SC 29633-1686, phone: 864-6824 ext. 233, fax: 864-654-6033. You may also visit their web site at www.ncees.org and select the *Students* link on the home page. On the *Students* page, select the *fundamentals examination* link and then view *Study Guides and NCEES Land Surveyor Task and Knowledge Statements*.

SUGGESTED REFERENCE LIST FOR TENNESSEE SPECIFIC LAND SURVEYING (TS) EXAMINATION

Tennessee Land Surveyors Law and Regulations, 2000 Edition – A slate blue booklet you should have received in your application packet. Issued by the Tennessee Board of Examiners for Land Surveyors, phone: 615-741-3611.

Tennessee Boundary Law published by the Tennessee Association of Professional Surveyors (TAPS), revised 1998. Available from the Tennessee Association of Professional Surveyors, phone: 615-860-9311.

Sections of the Tennessee code, state agency regulations and Tennessee case law related to the practice of surveying, boundaries and subdivisions. This information may be researched at any local law library that catalogues Tennessee law and www.tennesseeanytime.org/main/government/laws.html and www.tennesseeanytime.org/main/justice/courts.html

Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) regulations relative to wetlands, streams, septic systems, and erosion and sediment control. Contact TDEC Environmental Assistance Center, phone: 888-891-8332.

TDOT Survey Manual and TDOT TGRN Manual by Tennessee Department of Transportation. Available from TDOT Map Sales Office, phone: 615-741-2195 or at www.tdot.state.tn.us/Chief_Engineer/assistant_engineer_design/design/field_surveys/ html.

Elevation Certificate and Instructions, latest edition, by Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), National Flood Insurance Program. Contact FEMA for this information of view <http://nfip.kevric.com/ecsurveyor/>

Any applied drainage manual or text covering the hydrology of storm water runoff and the hydraulics of culverts and open channel flow (some state DOT's may have in-house drainage manuals available for sale.)

ACSM Sample Contracts Manual. A reference manual that describes the essentials of a contract for surveying services. Available from American Congress on Surveying and Mapping, phone: 301-493-0200 or www.survmap.org

Advanced Land Descriptions by Paul Cuomo and Roy Minnick. A book that deals with the essentials of writing various types of proper land descriptions. Available from Landmark Enterprises, Fax: 800-497-2665 or www.rhmls@earthlink.net

The following may be useful for the TS examination as well as the NCEES FS and PS examinations and may be ordered from Landmark Enterprises or ACSM or most book stores:

Definitions of Surveying and Associated Terms, by American Congress on Mapping and Surveying

Black's Law Dictionary (hard cover and soft cover versions available)

Boundary Control and Legal Principles by Brown, Robillard and Wilson.

Evidence and Procedures for Boundary Location by Brown, Robillard and Wilson.

A good plane surveying text such as *Elementary Surveying* by Wolf and Ghilani or *Surveying* by Moffitt and Bossler.

Route Surveying and Design by Gibson and Meyers (or similar book on route geometry).

Surveying with Construction Applications, by Kavanagh (or similar book on construction surveying).

State Plane Coordinate System of 1983 by James E. Stern, published by NGS, GPO, www.ngs.noaa.gov/PUBS_LIB/pubindex.html

Land Survey Manual, 3rd Edition by R.B. Buckner